



## Creativity CSB Regional Art Exhibit

**\$2.50** Free in Iiyuuuschii  
Serving Iiyuuuschii since 1993  
Canada Post Publication No. 40015005



FEMMES AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC INC.  
QUEBEC NATIVE WOMEN INC.

## Quebec Native Women's Fifth Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament

New Date!

# Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> 2011

Tournament co-chairs:

**Ghislain Picard**

*Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations  
of Quebec and Labrador*

**L'honorable Céline  
Hervieux-Payette**

*Senator*



\$150 /person  
Includes golf,  
cart and dinner

---

# TEEING IT UP FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Caughnawaga Golf Club • Kahnawake QC

To register, please contact:

Anouk Cree

450.632.0088 x 232    [acree@faq-qnw.org](mailto:acree@faq-qnw.org)





## As I Look Back...

By Unknown Author

*As I look back on my life  
I find myself wondering...  
Did I remember to thank you  
For all that you have done for me?  
For all the times you were by my side  
To help me celebrate my sucessess  
And accept my defeats?  
Or for teaching me the value of hard  
Work,  
Good judgement, courage, and  
Honesty?  
I wonder if I've ever thanked you  
For the simple things...  
The laughter, smiles and quiet times  
We've shared?  
If I have forgotten to express my  
Gratitude  
For any of these things  
I am thanking you now...  
And I am hoping that you've known all  
Along,  
How very much you are loved and  
Appreciated.*

Happy Mother's Day to every one of our readers  
who is a mother or about to be from everyone here  
at the Nation.

# Contents

## editorial

As I Look Back... 3

## rez notes

The price of living 4

## news

Manitoba Crees and James  
Bay Cree team up 5

Policing Handover 7

## features

Cree School Board  
Regional Art Exhibit 10

Uranium battle rages on 12

Cree moms visit  
Kahnawake 17

Golf season tips 18

Earth Studies for  
Cree youth 21

Feeding the north 22

## UTNS

Shape up or ship out 25



# The price of living

By Sonny Orr



One of the many virtues of living in the north is the endless expanse of land and waters that make up most of northern Quebec. It is a land of beauty and bounty, but something is making life a lot harder to enjoy and to stomach. It's called the price of goods from the south. Things like our favourite bacon and eggs, milk and cereals and breads of all things, the basics of breakfast life.

Recently, on a foray to the local store, I nearly fainted when my breakfast for my little family passed the \$60 mark. Then, on the same day, a little lunch actually made me swallow my own spit to conserve any moisture and to save on the price of water and basic soda pops and wish that I held back on the soda crackers in my soup de jour, some pea soup priced at nearly \$15 per litre. After ranting and raving at the startled cashier, I popped a few pills to lower my blood pressure and to slow down some metabolism so that I could conserve whatever energy I had leftover from my pricey breakfast.

Later on, thanks to the annual migration of caribou from the sport hunting grounds of the La Grande River basin, meat was on the table, with enough protein to last me until the next slice of bacon. Don't get me wrong, but bacon fat is now becoming a scarce commodity in the north, whereas fat on the body is a good sign of prosperity and often a necessity to ensure that there are enough calories to sustain your body heat during the long winter months.

Surprisingly, after my little rant with the cowering cashier, the prices came down, loudly announced with flyers and posters. My blood pressure lowered a bit, enough to clear my vision so I could punch in the PIN on the debit machine. The cold air freeze-dried the sweat on my face when I left the store and I headed over to the post office, where prices seem to be stable for years, or is

it that the price of a stamp managed to climb unnoticed to a level where you don't see it over the savings of email over snail mail. Lately, the biggest sales are the prepaid VISA cards where you can use this handy card to order groceries from Montreal and have them shipped up conveniently to the airport of your choice.

In the meantime, the leftovers from lunch are no longer left over or shared with the neighbour's dog and are oft devoured as an after-school or pre-supper snack. Pop and chips are now considered delicacies and for some reason, everyone still buys junk food. I guess that these culinary delights will never go out of style and will forever be the bane of nutritionists worldwide.

So if I were in charge of what is considered as something that should be subsidized, I would definitely put bacon on top, then butter, then sugar (and sweetener just to be fair), chocolate and peanuts, cereals and oatmeal (which is about the only thing that hasn't gone up in price), then any diet drink, and finally, white bread. At the bottom of the list should be anything already cheap that you have to add water to either cook or increase weight and of course, Perrier water, which is just about the most useless and yucky tasting mineral water of all time.

What would be the most logical thing to do is to send a cheque to everyone in the north on the list of communities worthy of receiving the Nutrition North program so that we can buy from any store and anything we would like to consume, because this program just doesn't seem to reach my wallet nor make any sense to my bank manager. Meanwhile, I guess I will lose some weight, forcibly so, until bacon comes back to slap those silly politicians who decided to make some communities targets for the tax man. (I forgot, food isn't supposed to be taxed, but what the heck, I said it anyways).

*the Nation* is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications

EDITORIAL BOARD

L. Stewart, W. Nicholls,  
N. Diamond, E. Webb

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Will Nicholls

IYIYU AYIMUUN EDITOR  
Brian Webb

COPY EDITOR  
Martin Siberok

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

D. Coyle, S. Orr, A. German,  
M. Siberok, X. Kataquapit,

PHOTOGRAPHY

A. German, N. Diamond,  
W. Nicholls, D. Valade

DIRECTOR OF FINANCES  
Linda Ludwick

SALES REPRESENTATIVES  
Danielle Valade, Ginette Grégoire

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR  
Claire MacKinnon

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

WHERE TO REACH US:

POSTMASTER:

*The Nation* PRODUCTION OFFICE

4529 CLARK, #403

MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3

EDITORIAL & ADS

TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

*The Nation* HEAD OFFICE

P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

www.nationnews.ca

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com

news@beesum-communications.com

Ads: for Danielle Valade

ads@beesum-communications.com

for Ginette Grégoire

publicity@beesum-communications.com

Classifieds: beesum@beesum-communications.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS:

\$60 PLUS TAXES

US: \$90

ABROAD: \$110

PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS

PRINTED BY IMPRIMERIE LEBONFON

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005

ISSN # 1206-2642

*The Nation* IS A MEMBER OF:

THE JAMES BAY CREE

COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY,

CIRCLE OF ABORIGINAL

CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS,

MAGAZINES CANADA

QUEBEC COMMUNITY

NEWSPAPER ASSN.

CANADIAN COMMUNITY

NEWSPAPERS ASSN.

LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC

We acknowledge the financial support of the  
Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical  
Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities.



# Building brighter futures for other Crees

## Manitoba Crees and James Bay Cree team up for a construction venture

news

By Amy German

It has been almost 40 years since Hydro-Québec began development in the north on traditional Cree territory, forever changing the lives of a people who once survived as nomads on lands that are now flooded to keep the energy megagiant's turbines spinning.

The Cree of James Bay did not let this devastate their people, fighting within the court system until they had permanent control over portions of their land and using the monies generated by these settlements, for the benefit of the population.

As a result, today the James Bay Cree have a sophisticated infrastructure within their communities, their own school and health boards, housing that is superior to many of Canada's other Native reserves and iron-clad leadership in place to continue leading the people forward.

All of this is what the Cree from the Tataskweyak Reserve at Split Lake in northern Manitoba want to see for their 2500+ people with the renewal of hydro development on their traditional territory by Manitoba Hydro.

Looking to make the most of their agreement with the Manitoba government and its crown energy giant, the Tataskweyak Cree Nation (TCN) looked for a partner whose expertise they could learn from, particularly when it came to maximizing the new benefits made available to them. And, who better than the Cree of James Bay to team up with, particularly as the Cree Construction and Development Company (CCDC) had everything the Manitoba Cree were looking for when it came to experience, training and success in a similar situation.

"In recognizing that they are about to go through a second phase of development in northern Manitoba, this time around, with Section 35 and the opportunity negotiation, setting aside contracts for the Crees and take full advantage of these opportunities, they wanted someone who could share their expertise and at the end of the day, CCDC was the best fit for them," said Christian Sinclair,



director of Development, Marketing and Promotion for CCDC.

After forming their own United Cree Construction Company in Manitoba to become part of the work force on the new hydro projects, the TCN not only formed a partnership with the CCDC, but also formed a joint venture with the Chee-Bee Construction Company in Chisasibi.

And, to see how well a nation can prosper with proper legislation of an agreement and the organization and planning required to make it work for that nation, four TCN councillors visited Chisasibi March 22-24.

"This visit was about reaffirming their business commitment because some of these projects are going to be fairly large in scope, similar to what the Quebec did recently with LG 1 & 2 and so they needed to be able to see first-hand the capacity and, more importantly, see the Cree on these job sites in Chisasibi," said Sinclair.

But what impressed them more than anything was to see Crees working in various capacities throughout the job sites and not just in entry-level positions. Once more, to see that the community had attractive housing, paved roads, sidewalks, a community swimming pool and strong leadership through the community's Chief and Council gave the Manitoba Cree new hope about their own future that their community may one day achieve as much.

"We have our own office in their community for the joint venture with United

Cree Construction and the nice thing about it is that, along with an on-site CCDC engineer, about 38 of the employees are from Tataskweyak and are now trained to work there," said Sinclair.

In the past, construction projects on the TCN were always run by non-Aboriginal companies that would hire the minimum of Cree employees, often as little as 10%. As a result, the wealth generated from each project would leave when the non-Aboriginal workers returned to south.

Between the new potential they have for wealth retention within their own nation, the new skills the people are gaining through employee training in construction and heavy equipment operation through CCDC, and the potential for learning from the 35 years of experience the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee and its Construction entity have to offer, the Tataskweyak has found new hope. Hope that they may fix their housing shortage, end their employment shortfalls, add much-needed infrastructure and renew their strength in leadership for the benefit of all their people.

"The fact that the culture is alive and so strong in Chisasibi, including the language, showed the Tataskweyak Cree that they don't have to give up anything in terms of their past while at the same time being involved in big business and development. They saw that they really can have the best of both worlds," said Sinclair.





Select Hotel du Fort for your next stay in Montreal!

Proudly serving the Cree Community since 2000

1390 rue du Fort, Montreal, Qc H3H 2R7  
(514) 938-8333 or 1-800-565-6333  
[www.hoteldufort.com](http://www.hoteldufort.com)

SPECIAL RATE for Cree Communities including breakfast & wireless Internet.

*Wachiya!*

SECRÉTARIAT AUX  
ALLIANCES ÉCONOMIQUES  
NATION CRIE  
ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE



SECRÉTARIAT TO  
THE CREE NATION  
ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE  
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

## TELECOM 2011

Large Bande - Stratégies et applications  
Broadband - Applications and strategies



JUNE  
7-8  
JUN,  
2011

JUNE 8 - NETWORKING GOLF

### Registration

[www.creenation-at.com/event](http://www.creenation-at.com/event)  
819.824.9888

### Location

Centre de congrès Gouverneur,  
Rouyn-Noranda (Québec)

In collaboration with



# WIN A BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE GOOSE CALL!!!

IT'S SIMPLE!  
IT'S EASY!

It's open to all residents of Eeyou Istchee regardless of age. Just send us your favourite goose-hunting photo.



To enter the contest, go to the Nation website: [www.nationnews.ca](http://www.nationnews.ca), & upload your favorite goose-hunting photos. Online entries accepted only. Contest closes May 20, 2011. The photos will be judged by the Nation's Editorial Board. Please note that all photos submitted to the Nation may be published in a future issue.

Check out Recall Designs goose calls on their website: [www.recalldesigns.com](http://www.recalldesigns.com).

# Policing handover

news

## Police units in the nine Cree communities merge into one single force

By Amy German

Over 35 years since it originally became a clause in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, the Eeyou Eenou Police Force finally became a reality on April 1, uniting all nine community police forces under one leadership.

"This handover means a consolidation; we are taking over and putting in place a big Cree Nation icon. I call policing one of the pillars of governance, along with justice and all of the other institutions that we manage. This is one of the pillars that has finally fallen into place," said Bill Namagoose, Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Crees.

According to Namagoose, the police force has been many years in the planning and as it has finally become a reality, it is a symbol of Cree pride. While Namagoose said there are still some technical and administrative issues to be worked out, the Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Regional Authority has managed to create the bylaws that will govern policing work.

The biggest difference between just over a month ago and the beginning of the new administration on April 1 is that the police units are now under one director, Reggie Bobbish, who is now heading up a force of 80 police officers.

There are now also three regional police captains: Lyle Cox from Chisasibi, Carl Simard from Oujé and Joe Saganash from Waswanipi. Each local police detachment will now be headed up by its own lieutenant.

According to Namagoose, there are also several advantages to having the entire police force working under one umbrella as it will be considerably easier for each detachment to share information and strategies.

"There will be more cooperation as everybody is working for one organization rather than nine separate

ones in the nine different communities. There will be more efficiency and a better flow of ideas and information as well as a greater capacity to work with each other," said Namagoose.

The new Eeyou Eenou Police Force will have a more homogenized look as all the officers will wear new matching uniforms throughout the region.

Namagoose said in the past when regional policing meetings would be called there would be officers showing up in nine different uniforms, like a

"IN THE PAST, SOME PEOPLE WERE JUST DEPUTIZED AND WERE GIVEN A CRUISER, BUT IT SHOULDN'T WORK LIKE THAT. WE WANT TO PROFESSIONALIZE THE POLICE FORCE SO THAT IT IS A CAREER."

"hodgepodge of police departments". With a new uniform the entire force will have a unified look so that officers are more precise in their appearance.

A new police force also means more homogenization when it comes to police training as now every constable will require the same certification.

In the past the Crees weren't able to use the title of special constable as being a special constable requires specific training. Under the new regime Cree police will need to be certified and have undergone the standard provincial training for the most part.

"All our police officers have to be full-fledged police constables and, of course, we can swear in special constables if need be. But the emphasis in the future will be to have more training programs and more training for the Crees because this is what we found was lacking. Before nobody was really in charge of this, now we will have one organization that will look at training," said Namagoose.

New training will mean more programs for detective work as well as drug enforcement and other areas that the new administration feels need to be strengthened.

The officers themselves are now seeing vast improvements to their pay scale, working conditions and pension plans. The GCC/CRA wanted to put their officers on par with police forces throughout Quebec and so they hired a firm to look at standards else in the province. As a result, the Council Board adopted a new pay scale and

working conditions that are reflective of the rest of Quebec.

Police now have a pension plan that they did not have previously as employees under the Band Council. While they will have to pay in higher rates to the plan, police will be able to retire earlier. The CRA also pulled funding from its budget and contributed \$1.6 million to the new pension plan.

Changing the image of not just the police force but policing in general within Eeyou Istchee is an essential part of the new Eeyou Eenou Police Force. Namagoose said some Crees view becoming a police officer is just another job. However, he would like to take that image and remarket it so that policing is seen as a solid career, something that Cree youth can aspire to.

"In the past, some people were just deputized and were given a cruiser, but it shouldn't work like that. We want to professionalize the police force so that it is a career," said Namagoose.



# DISTRIBUTION NORD SELECT

**WE HAVE EVERYTHING  
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR  
TO GET READY FOR  
GOOSE BREAK.**

**BIG FOOT**  
*the Duck*



**C.O.D. TO JAMES BAY  
COMPETITIVE PRICES**

**Remington**



**WINCHESTER**  
AMMUNITION

**Challenger**  
AMMUNITION



**Stoeger**  
AMMUNITION

**Bushnell**

**NorthWest Canoe**  
Sole dealer since 1988

**Big Boggan**

**Husqvarna**  
Great experience

**(819) 739-3883**

**4, Nottaway street, Matagami  
nancy@nord-select.qc.ca**

**ENJOY YOUR GOOSE BREAK!**



**PETRONOR**

[www.petronor.ca](http://www.petronor.ca)

**Distributor of  
petroleum products  
and lubricants in  
the James Bay  
Territory.**

## **Addresses:**

**Radisson  
Depot:**

Tel.: (819) 638-8222  
Fax: (819) 638-7107

**La Grande  
Rivière Airport:**

Tel.: (819) 638-4547  
Fax: (819) 638-4547

**EM-1  
Construction Site:**

Tel.: (819) 865-2045  
Fax: (819) 865-2039

**Sarcelle  
Construction Site:**

Tel.: (819) 672-2358  
Fax: (819) 672-2411

**Chisasibi  
Gas Station:**

Tel.: (819) 855-2427  
Fax: (819) 855-3462

**Administration  
office:**

Tel.: (819) 824-5505  
Fax: (819) 824-5420

## **Services:**

- Delivery of petroleum products in bulk
- Aviation fuel
- Rental of movable tanks

## **Products:**

- Unleaded gas, clear and colored diesel, stove oil, Jet-A, 100LL and lubricants.



**Cree Indian  
Centre of  
Chibougamau**

## **15th Annual Friendship Golf Tournament** Thursday, May 26, 2011

**The CICC is kicking off the  
golf tournament season again.**

Circle May 26th on your calendar and come join us on the green for this important fundraiser that celebrates intercultural friendship.



## **Where:**

Club de golf  
Chibougamau-  
Chapais  
130, rue des Forces  
Armées,  
Chibougamau,  
Québec

## **Information:**

Tel: 418-748-7667  
Fax: 418-748-6954  
95 Jaculet,  
Chibougamau, Qc.  
G8P 2G1

***In the spirit of new friendships,  
foursomes are drawn at random,  
2 Native and 2 Non-Native players  
per team***

Your participation benefits the community through developing goodwill, enlarges our mutual circle of friends and contributes to the Centre's Building Fund.

**Cree Indian Centre of Chibougamau  
40 years of services to the community**



## Shannen's Dream gets a day on Parliament Hill

Students and educators from across Canada came together on April 27 in support of Shannen's Dream, an organization formed in the wake of youth leader Shannen Koostachin's death, and called for the end to apartheid in First Nations education.

Koostachin tragically lost her life in a car accident in 2010 but in the years leading up to her death the Attawapiskat Cree girl garnered the country's attention by standing up to Indian Affairs and demanding that the children in her community finally receive what they had been promised for over a decade.

After winning the battle for a new school in 2010, it became Koostachin's dream that every First Nations child in Canada have access to what she described as "safe and comfy schools", that featured culturally based education.

First Nations education is funded \$2000-\$3000 less per student annually resulting in a lower standard of education on reserves throughout Canada.

On April 27, students from an Ottawa school organized a march to Parliament Hill to present letters of support for their First Nation peers to the federal government in support of Shannen's Dream.

"Today shows us that young people of all backgrounds understand and believe in this dream. We must listen to these young leaders and realize that we can make Shannen's Dream a reality simply by doing the right thing. We are the youngest and fastest growing segment of the population. We are the future of this country. Educating our youth and supporting their full potential must be a national priority," said National Grand Chief Shawn Atleo in support of the event.

While the federal government has yet to budge on making changes to First

Nations education, events were held around the country to remember the life of the young leader and celebrate her life.

For more info:  
[www.fncfcs.com/shannensdream](http://www.fncfcs.com/shannensdream)

## New partnership formed to help homeless Inuit women in Montreal

Pita Aatami, president of Makivik Corporation, and Lino Ferrara, chairman of the Board of Directors of Chez Doris, a day shelter for homeless women in Montreal, have signed a partnership agreement to support vulnerable Inuit women living on the streets in Montreal.

Chez Doris' mandate is to support homeless women by providing social, educational and practical assistance in a secure and accepting environment. Among its clientele are many Inuit women living under dire circumstances.

The new partnership will see the hiring of Annie Pisuktie of Iqaluit as Inuit Street Case Worker.

The new partnership will also see collaboration with Nunavik Inuit

organizations as there are also several other women from Inuit from Nunavut and Labrador receiving services at the shelter.

## Aboriginal health puts the brakes on oilsands growth

The perception of Aboriginal Health and Canada's failure to protect the environment regarding Alberta's oilsands production is leaving a foul taste in the mouths of many Americans and turning them off from purchasing Canadian oil.

While oilsands production is slated to double in the coming decade to meet the increasing global demand for oil, illness among Canada's Aboriginal communities has become a hot topic in the US.

According to the Edmonton Journal, Canada has told its diplomats that this has become a major obstacle in promoting Canadian oil.

In documents obtained by the Edmonton Journal, the government has told its envoys that this has resulted in a growing opposition in US to oilsands development.



Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: [www.tundracomics.com](http://www.tundracomics.com)

# Cree as in creativity

By Pierre Coulombe

## The youth reach out at the 2011 Cree School Board Regional Art Exhibit

On April 19, the Cree School Board held its popular annual Art Exhibition. The event took place at École Wiinibekuu School in Waskaganish and displayed over 300 beautiful works of arts from the James Bay schools.

The exhibits included many types of art: paintings, drawings, pastels, papier-mâché, sculpture... and also photography, a progressive new art form that captures our youth's sensitive impulses. Some images were stunning!

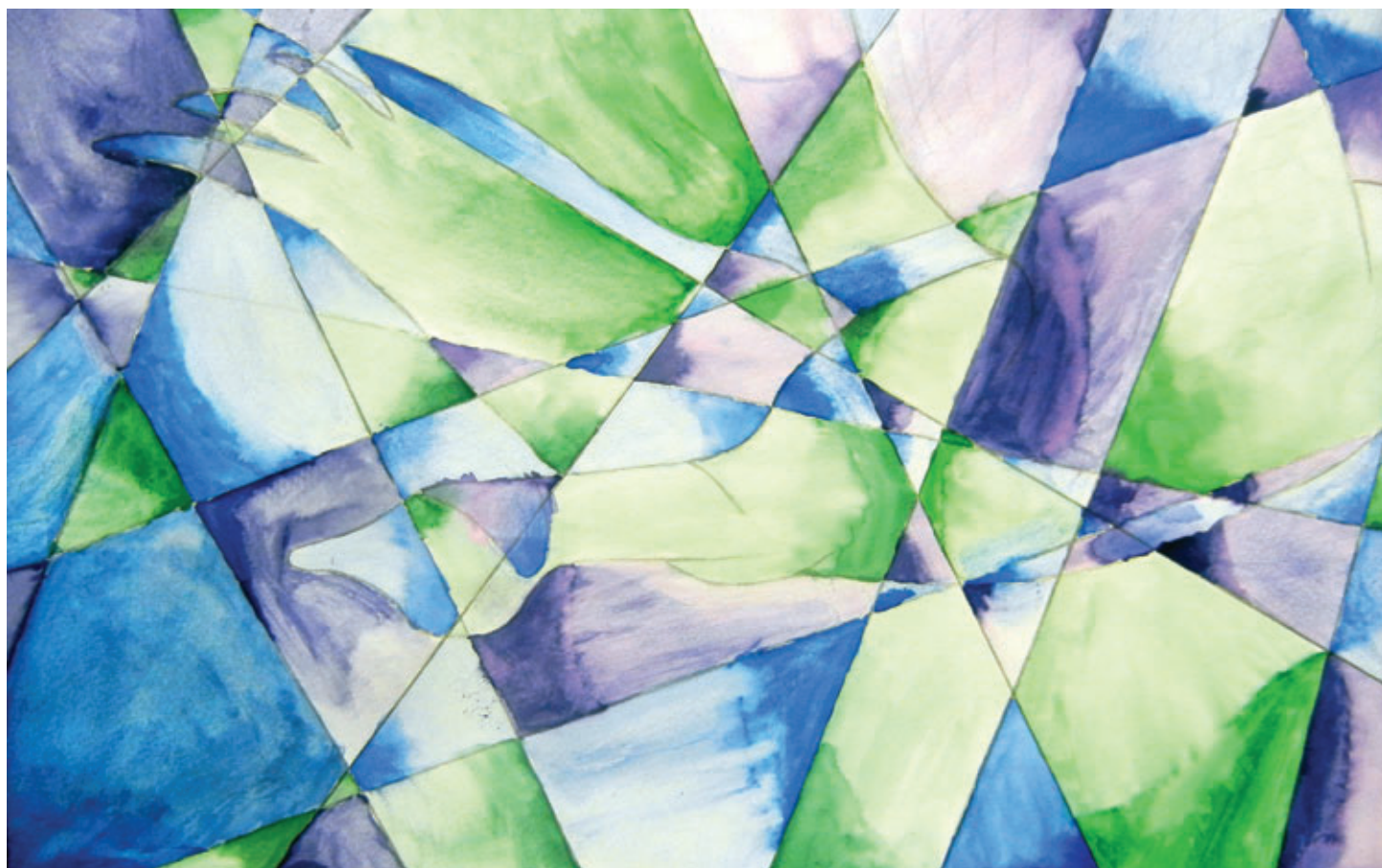
Seven communities participated in this year's event and the exhibition committee was pleased to receive so many samples of Eeyou talent originating from all over the territory. The team took two days to set up the displays and made sure that the exhibits were presented by grade levels. The exhibits were identified from the back, concealing their ownership and point of origin, until they had been properly viewed and rated by the judges.

The three judges took to the task whole-heartedly, making the tough decisions at times, and following a strict order of criteria. Our sincere thanks go to Darlene Cheechoo

(commissioner), Sherry Weistche (consultant) and Marty Cowboy for a job well done. All the exhibits were rated according to technical aspects (size, shape, texture) but also by content, statement and emotional response.

All agree on how important art is within our school curriculum. Besides the usual aesthetic qualities we associate it with, art is a transmitter of culture and race. Our communities should not neglect this form of expression and seek to promote it as often as possible. Needless to say, Native arts and crafts should be emphasized in our school programs, relentlessly.

But most importantly, art provides our youth with an extra means of expression, which allows them to reach us with important messages about themselves, their well-being and their hopes. Some messages are moving, some are touching, all of them are tale telling. When youth reach us, they teach us. When we take the time to really ask the students how they see the work that they've produced, their answers are often surprising and revealing of their spirit.







"Birds" by Karalyne Weistche, Grade 6, Waskaganish



"Landscape with tree" by Shawanna Lameboy, Grade 3, Waskaganish



"Landscape" by Nicholas Hester, Grade 2, Waskaganish



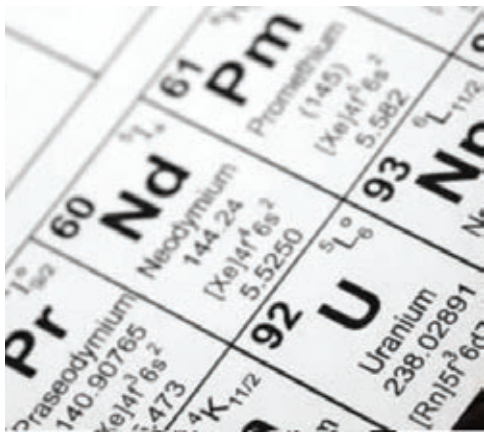
"Winter house" by Joël Ratté, Grade 5, Waswanipi

14 winners – All items were enjoyed and appreciated, though some received special recognition from the judges and hosts. Fourteen students were commended for their beautiful work. These students are (by grade levels):

Pre-K	Aileen Hester	Waskaganish
Kindergarten A	Aydon Hester Kapashesit	Waskaganish
Grade 1 (French)	Peter Jay Gull	Waswanipi
Grade 2 (French)	Nicholas Hester	Waskaganish
Grade 3 (English)	Shawanna Lameboy	Waskaganish
Grade 4 (French)	Jocelyne Saganash-Martinhunter	Waswanipi
Grade 5 (French)	Joël Ratté	Waswanipi
Grade 6 (French)	Karalyne Weistche	Waskaganish
Sec 1	Raven Mark	Eastmain
Sec 2	Miah Otter	Waswanipi
Sec 3	Jessie Moses	Eastmain
Sec 4	Alyssa Miniquaken-Ottereyes	Wemindji
Sec 5	Renée Saganash	Nemaska
Sculpture, Sec 2	River Jordan-Cowboy	Waskaganish
Photography, Sec 3	Tina Brown	Eastmain
Painting - Sec 3	Warren Jolly	Waskaganish
Crafts, Sec 4	Georgina Jolly	Nemaska

A special thanks to all the members and helpers who made this event possible. administrators Ed Trembath and Rita MacLeod, Virginia Wabano (coordinator), Karen Gilpin, Ingrid MacNeil, Lucie Robitaille and Marjorie Bowsfield.





# Uranium battle rages on

## The community of Mistissini mounts its battle for a moratorium on uranium mining

By Amy German

Ever since the November hearings in Mistissini and Chibougamau over whether or not Strateco Inc. will get the approval from the federal and provincial boards required to pursue their uranium mining exploration project, both sides have been awaiting a verdict with bated breath.

Last November 23 the final hearing over Strateco's Matoush Project to drill deep into the Otish Mountains on

While community members expressed their deep fears about potential contamination to the Cree traditional traplines and the potential for lingering effects on the environment, the major criticism of the project was that the EIS lacked sufficient data.

"The EIA submitted by Strateco has raised many concerns. Specifically, that baseline data has not been collected thoroughly and does not fully reflect the

While there is still no ruling on the November 23 hearing held in Mistissini and the subsequent hearing held in Chibougamau, Strateco CEO and President Guy Hébert has continued to aggressively vie for his project.

The Nation reported earlier this year that in January the company held events in London, England and Paris, France to entice new shareholders.

The invitation for the London events on January 25 and 26 stated, "Strateco announced that it has received strong support from all the parties involved in the public hearings held in Quebec in this matter."

Trying to further its cause with the COMEX /COFEX boards, the Nation recently obtained a letter that Hébert sent January 17 in which he clearly attempts to discredit the opinions expressed in Mistissini in November.

He goes as far to say Mistissini's claim that residents were not sufficiently informed about the project was untrue because the company had met with community members on over 200 occasions through various means.

"We used various strategies (information pages in newspapers, door-to-door visits, information pamphlets, information sessions, etc...) to explain, in lay terms, uranium exploration and mining, which we concede is a complex issue. We are therefore extremely surprised that none of our initiatives was mentioned, or given any consideration,

"HE GOES AS FAR TO SAY MISTISSINI'S CLAIM THAT RESIDENTS WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY INFORMED ABOUT THE PROJECT WAS UNTRUE BECAUSE THE COMPANY HAD MET WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON OVER 200 OCCASIONS THROUGH VARIOUS MEANS."

Category 3 land was held in Mistissini. The company is seeking approval to drill a 5x5 metre hole that would run 300 metres down into the Otish Mountains for uranium exploration based on the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the project that had been submitted for review in early 2010.

During the hearing many community members spoke out against the project as did Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio, various environmental activist groups and a Canadian mining monitoring group.

abundance of wildlife in the area. There are several independent reports that substantiate this claim. The view is, if Strateco could not even take enough care in the preparation of this assessment, will they make the effort when it comes time to implement the measures needed to safeguard the water, plants and animals in and around the Matoush site," said Shecapio in his statement.

The Grand Council of the Crees also threw their support behind Shecapio via a press release indicating that the GCC would stand behind Shecapio's decision.



by the authors of the memorandum of the Cree Nation of Mistissini,” said Hébert in the letter.

In his letter, Hébert also stated that the August 2010 election for a new Chief leading to a transition of power from then Chief John Longchap to Chief Shecapio changed the playing field to the company’s detriment. “Meetings were held on several occasions with the former band council and the former Chief of Mistissini. The cooperation established and discussions held led us to believe that our efforts and initiatives were not only being considered, but were also on the right track.”

Chief Shecapio, both at the hearing and many times since then, has spoken passionately about the Cree responsibility to act as stewards to the land and protect it for the many generations of Crees yet to come. His argument against the project has been that it is not in line with this essential Cree value.

Hébert responded to this, arguing that the project was completely in line with the values of the Cree. “We understand that in speaking of traditional principles and knowledge, they are mainly referring to the close relationship they have with their environment. However, we showed through our environmental

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). While Hébert said the studies do meet the standards of these boards and governmental bodies, he complained that the presentations made at the hearing were based only on the “initial data provided” and ignored the “the tremendous work done by Strateco and its consultants to scrutinize and supplement certain pre-identified information and thus meet the extremely strict criteria of the competent authorities.”

In the following two excerpts, Hébert goes on to tell the boards how his company has been treated unfairly by the presentations made at the hearing. It should be noted that Strateco did have the opportunity to present all of the information they so desired at the May information session in 2010.

During the hearing in November, not only did the Chief and Council have their own opportunity to present their information as did other groups that had applied for a subsidy to review the EIS independently, such as Ramsey Hart from MiningWatch Canada and Gordon Edwards from the Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility. What they presented concerned the data that Strateco had provided them with. They were both heavily critical of the project.

“REFUSING TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT WOULD CAUSE NOT ONLY MAJOR FINANCIAL HARM TO THE EMPLOYEES OF STRATECO, THE SUPPLIERS OF MISTISSINI AND OF JAMÉSIE AS WELL AS STRATECO SHAREHOLDERS, BUT IT WOULD ALSO BE RECOGNIZING THAT FEAR AND MISINFORMATION IN QUEBEC OVERSHADOW THE EXPERTISE OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES.”

impact assessment that the underground exploration program would be in line with their principles.”

At this point Hébert lists a series of studies conducted by Strateco that were commented on by experts from the Quebec Department of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks (MDDEP), the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) and the

Many local coalitions and Elders also spoke about their fears and connection to a land they hold so dear.

And, at no point did Strateco contact the Nation requesting another interview to discuss its new data.

“Since 2007, Strateco has invested a great deal of energy, time and money in publicizing its project, as well as the issues related to uranium. The public

pre-consultations in December 2008 identified the main concerns of the residents of Mistissini and of the Jamésie area. Information sessions, held in May 2010, and public hearings, held in

November 2010, should normally have allowed the public to receive clear answers to their concerns. The format chosen for these public sessions, however, failed to provide answers to these concerns; instead it gave a platform to individuals and groups who are known for their systematic opposition to mining projects or who are antinuclear.

Unfortunately, the experts invited by COMEX, COFEX and Strateco did not have the opportunity to answer questions from the public or respond to the many erroneous and outdated statements made, which were mostly unrelated to the Matoush project.

Strateco considers that it was penalized by the format selected. It should be noted that this format was modified for the public hearings in Chibougamau, which at least helped to correct some unsubstantiated statements. There was no opportunity for the experts to correct most of the inaccurate statements, which were considered truthful and credible

by the public, mainly in Mistissini.”

“Refusing to support the project would not only cause major financial harm to Strateco employees, Mistissini and Jamésie suppliers and Strateco shareholders, but would amount to recognizing that, in Quebec, fear and misinformation take precedence over the expertise of the competent authorities. We hope that you will respond favourably to our request.”

Mounting their own battle against the project, the Cree of Mistissini took their battle over uranium mining to a Council Board meeting March 23.

During the meeting Shecapio said the following: “Our worry is that uranium exploration and mining goes against the stewardship principles of our traditional teachings.

“We are concerned about the close proximity of uranium deposits to the Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish Park. Given the potential for tourism, we have wor-










# 3M Trim-Line

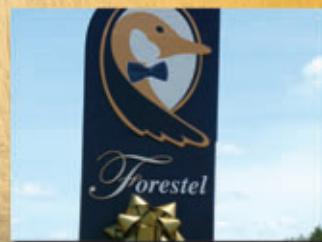
## de l'Abitibi



au service des **entreprises**  
serving **businesses**

-  Conception graphique
-  Impression numérique
-  Enseignes et signalisation
-  Lettrages et bannières
-  Kiosques et présentoirs
-  Articles promotionnels
-  Formulaires et papeterie

- graphic design 
- Wide format printing 
- Signs 
- Banners and lettering 
- Popup displays & stands 
- Promotional items 
- Forms & stationery 



1039, RUE DE L'ÉCHO, VAL-D'OR QC J9P 6X6  
FAX : 819 824-8809 @ : INFO@TRIMLINEABITIBI.CA

1 888 824-3166



ries that a park and uranium project can co-exist in harmony.

"We also have concerns with the statement in two recent environmental impact assessments that several naturally occurring contaminants are present in the Otish Mountain drainage basin, often exceeding national maximum allowable limits. These assessment documents then go on to state that the addition of the same contaminants to the water-course would have a negligible effect on the local environment.

"We are saying that more study needs to be conducted by the Cree Nation to accurately measure what is present in the water now, to be able to fully understand what impacts uranium mining will have on our watershed," said Shecapio.

During that same Council Board meeting a resolution was passed calling for a moratorium.

The resolution read: "That the Board/Council of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority hereby formally support the implementation of a moratorium and uranium mining on the traditional lands of the Cree Nation of Mistissini, to allow for greater information to the members of the Cree Nation of Mistissini on the socio-economic and environmental impacts of advanced uranium exploration and uranium mining."

Following that resolution, the GCC/CRA has since petitioned the government to support the moratorium, which is required for the moratorium to be in effect on Category 3 land.

During the speech, Shecapio spoke about a new partnership that the Band

Council was forming with the University of Saskatchewan to implement a regional water-monitoring program to oversee water quality on traditional territory in advance of future resource development activity.

*The Nation* recently asked Shecapio to elaborate how this would work and

As for the moratorium, Shecapio explained that what the community wants is not a flat-out indefinite ban.

"The Cree Nation of Mistissini would like to make it clear that we are simply calling for a moratorium or a temporary halt to uranium development in this territory to give us more time to understand the watershed. We are not seeking a ban.

"WE ARE SAYING THAT MORE STUDY NEEDS TO CONDUCTED BY THE CREE NATION TO ACCURATELY MEASURE WHAT IS PRESENT IN THE WATER NOW, TO BE ABLE TO FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IMPACTS URANIUM MINING WILL HAVE ON OUR WATERSHED."

what this would mean in relation to Strateco.

"Mistissini and the CRA are working closely with Professor Monique Dubé to develop a program that utilizes traditional knowledge and western science to gain a clearer understanding of the Otish Mountain drainage basin. This would include accurately measuring not only water quantity and quality, but also the abundance and seasonal variations of wildlife.

"We are in the preliminary stages of developing this pilot project that will serve as a model for implementation across Eeyou Istchee."

The plan with this would be to have a monitoring system in place in any area where natural resource development is taking place as a safeguard for the Cree.

"The provincial government holds the power implement a moratorium on Cree traditional territories in Quebec," said Shecapio.

As for Strateco's current tactics in terms of raising funds for its project while telling the world that the project is supported by all of the local bodies, as they did in London, Shecapio responded:

"Our focus is on the COFEX and COMEX final reports. All I can reiterate is the point we made to the panels at the November 23 hearing – that Strateco didn't do what it should have to build trust with the community. Their actions since that time just confirm this."

With any hope a ruling will be in soon as will a response from the government on whether a moratorium would be permissible.



## Happy Mother's Day

Make sure you don't forget, *The Nation* hasn't.

**RONA**

C.CARON

9, Nottaway, Matagami JOY 2A0  
 Tel.: 819 739-2578 Fax: 819 739-3619  
 rona@ronacaron.ca



16x24 20x24 24x36 40x48

**We have everything  
 you need for your cabin.**

**WE ARE THE #1 CABIN SPECIALISTS  
 IN JAMES BAY FOR OVER 35 YEARS!**

We deliver directly on site for you.

**819 739-2578**



**ASSURANCES ABITIBI**

1100, 3e Avenue Ouest  
 Val-d'Or, QC J9P 1T6  
 Tel: (819) 825-8673  
 Fax: (819) 825-9157

**Toll free:**  
**1-800-463-8673 ext. 231**  
 dany@adcabitibi.com  
 www.adcabiti.com

**ADC Insurances Abitibi at your  
 service for over 50 years.**

We can take care of your insurance needs:

- Automobile – Optimized for the James Bay territory.
- Life Insurance
- RRSP

**Come and talk to us, we have the solution  
 for you.**

**Happy Goose Break to all.**

ᑭᑭᑦ ᑭᑭᑦ ᑭᑭᑦ ᑭᑭᑦ ᑭᑭᑦ ᑭᑭᑦ ᑭᑭᑦ ᑭᑭᑦ ᑭᑭᑦ ᑭᑭᑦ

## BIENVENUE • WELCOME • WACHIYA SYMPOSIUM MINES BAIE-JAMES 2011

**VENEZ DÉCOUVRIR LE POTENTIEL  
 MINÉRAL DE LA BAIE-JAMES**

**30, 31 mai et 1er juin 2011**

Tenu à Chibougamau et Mistissini

- La nouvelle vision du potentiel aurifère et cuivre-zinc (SMV) du secteur Chapais-Chibougamau;
- L'évolution géologique et métallogénique des secteurs Troilus-Opinaca-Nemaska (cuivre, or, lithium, terres rares);
- L'état de situation des projets avancés dans le secteur des Monts Otish (cuivre, molybdène, or, diamant, uranium).

**Consultez la liste des conférences et résumés :**

<http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/mines/quebec-mines/2011-03/symposium.asp>

**Pour information :**

Doris Paul : 418-748-6060 poste 446

Donald Macleod : 418-770-6071

cetc@developpementchibougamau.org

**COME DISCOVER THE MINERAL POTENTIAL  
 OF THE JAMES BAY TERRITORY**

**May 30, 31 and June 1, 2011**

Hosted by Chibougamau and Mistissini

- A new vision of the gold and copper-zinc (VMS) potential of the Chapais-Chibougamau area;
- The geological and metallogenetic evolution of the Troilus-Opinaca-Nemaska sectors (copper, gold, lithium, rare earth elements);
- Progression of advanced projects in the Otish Mountains region (copper, molybdenum, gold, diamond, uranium).

**See the list of conferences and summaries:**

<http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/mines/quebec-mines/2011-03/symposium.asp>

**For more information:**

Doris Paul: 418-748-6060 extension 446

Donald Macleod: 418-770-6071

donmacleod7@gmail.com

**Merci à nos partenaires /  
 Thanks to our partners:**

Platine  
 Platinum



Diamant  
 Diamond



Société  
 de développement  
 de la Baie-James  
**Québec**





# Cree moms visit Kahnawake

## A mothers' conference doesn't go as planned but a good time was had by all anyway

By Amy German



It was supposed to be a Cree and Mohawk mothers' conference in Kahnawake that had been designed as a special cultural exchange between moms from Wemindji and Kahnawake. But, it didn't exactly work out that way.

Affectionately named the "Creeference" by the Young Mothers' Association of Wemindji, the local Wellness Centre and the Cree Nation of Wemindji sponsored the women and their entourage to head south to Montreal for the event. In preparation for the event, the participants also fundraised to help contribute to the \$35,000 that the trip cost.

In total, 28 young mothers, their children and babysitters travelled from the Cree community by bus to Montreal for four days of workshops, yoga courses, sightseeing tours, shopping and a cultural exchange. But things didn't happen as planned.

Due to a series of miscommunications with the Mohawk community, the Cree mothers met and held a workshop at Kahnawake's Step By Step Child and Family Centre, but no Mohawk mothers participated in the event.

According to Alana Atwin at Step By Step, Mohawk women would have participated, but were unavailable since they had been informed too late at a time when the community is extremely busy. Plus, the conference-room facility at the centre can only accommodate

about 30 people, leaving no room for the local women.

Nonetheless, according to Michelle Achinski, a University of Waterloo student who is working with the Wemindji mothers, the trip from April 14-18 went extremely well.

"There were two goals for this event; one was to reward the progress that these mothers have achieved so far. The other goal was to spearhead further progress and any future goals, including education," said Achinski.

While the group was supposed to attend three workshops – one on empowerment, one on parenting and another on managing money – the women only made it to the empowerment workshop.

According to workshop leader Eleanor Cowan, it went off spectacularly well.

"They really enjoyed it. What they did was interview each other and then they reported to each other. They were laughing so much because they were having fun introducing each other to the group and that was very nice," said Cowan.

Though the mothers' group didn't make it to the scheduled yoga classes either, Achinski said that being in a different environment was really important and essential to the learning that went on at the workshop.

"The atmosphere really helped because they were able to take their kids with them and they could always turn around and see their kids playing in the playground. And, this was in a territory that they had never been too before. Kahnawake was really beautiful," said Achinski.

The moms and their entourage got a taste of Kahnawake as they concluded their day at the local Water Drum Restaurant, something Achinski said everyone enjoyed.

The mothers also were able to take a guided tour of McGill University for those interested in higher learning, take in a series of tourist attractions and, of course, shop until they dropped.

While the group's schedule fell by the wayside from time to time, according to both Achinski and Cowan, the mothers had a truly fabulous time.



# FORE!

## Tips to get your golf season off to a swinging start

By Daniel Coyle

Spring has finally arrived, and with it the start of golf season, a time when golfers' hopes spring eternal. Like most golfers, I dream of improving my game; straightening the hook out of my drive, owning the greens and, dare I say, breaking 100. However, as is the case with any sport, getting ready for the golf season requires taking care of yourself physically and taking care of your equipment. So, here are a few tips that will help you get your season off to a great start and put you in reach of this year's objectives.

### Tip 1: Start exercising before you hit the links

Anyone who has played the game knows that golf is a demanding physical sport. It requires great flexibility, range of motion, balance and physical strength all working together to move that little white ball across thousands of yards and 18 holes. While it is tempting to hit the links on the first sunny day of the season, it makes more sense to start training and working your golf muscles a week or two in advance of your first round.

Let's face it, the last thing you want to do is injure your back on your first round and risk missing the entire season. Start off working your irons at the driving range, or practicing your chips and putts, before taking on 18 holes. The little things you do for yourself physically at the start of the season will pay dividends all summer.



### Tip 2: Clean and repair your equipment NOW

A golfer's equipment can make or break his/her game. So, why do so many golfers start their season by digging their clubs out of the basement 15 minutes before the first tee time of the season? Golf clubs can be very expensive. Taking proper care of them before, during and after the season can lengthen their life and improve your game.

Before even swinging a club, take the time to do proper cleaning and maintenance on all your equipment.

- Brush the dirt and turf (left behind from last season) off the grooves of your irons.
- Inspect the grips on all your clubs. If they are worn down, shiny or slippery, replace them. New grips can give a whole new life to old clubs.
- Your golf shoes are important equipment. Dirty or poorly maintained shoes will hurt your swing and are just plain uncomfortable. Clean your golf shoes and replace any damaged or missing cleats.

- Treat yourself to a new glove, and wash your towels.
- Empty and clean your entire golf bag and top up on new balls and tees.
- If you use a pull cart, inspect it to make sure that all moving parts are in good working order and won't break, leaving you stranded somewhere on the 7th hole.

### Tip #3: Shop for deals in the spring

Golf lovers know that the game can be an expensive passion. But the shrewd golfer can find deals on equipment and green fees.

If you think that you need to replace a club, or if it is time to upgrade your entire set, there is no better time than right now to shop around for some incredible savings. Most golf stores will have last year's models of clubs on clearance right now.

Used clubs can also be a source of bargains, especially for the rookie golfer. Websites like eBay, Craigslist and Kijiji often have lots of used sets available for sale. Another great resource is [www.callawaygolfpreowned.com](http://www.callawaygolfpreowned.com),





where great deals can be found on some of the highest quality golf clubs on the market.

Great deals can also be found on green fees. The local golf club wants you to come back every week. So, from time to time, golf clubs promote early season green fee specials on websites like [www.accesgolf.com](http://www.accesgolf.com) (French only) and [www.golfbutler.com](http://www.golfbutler.com). Or, unadvertised specials can be had simply by calling the golf club or asking for them when you arrive at the Pro Shop.

And while it may be too late this spring, be on the lookout for trade shows like ExpoGolf, which holds events (offering great show deals on green fees and a fabulous golf equipment cash & carry) at multiple locations across Quebec in February and March each year.

Follow these few simple steps and you will be ready to shock your golf buddies and own the course from now until the snow flies again.



## Golf Tournaments 2011

### **Cree Indian Centre of Chibougamau**

May 26, Club de Golf Chibougamau-Chapais, contact: Jo-Ann Toulouse, 418-748-7667 ext 230

### **Secretariat aux Alliances Economiques**

June 8, Golf Noranda, Rouyn-Noranda, contact: Sylvie Gaudet, [gaudet.sylvie@cablevision.qc.ca](mailto:gaudet.sylvie@cablevision.qc.ca)

**Cree Nation of Wemindji** June 11, Belvedere Golf Club, Val-d'Or, contact: Allan Oblin, 819-978-3818

### **Quebec Native Women's Fifth Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament**

June 17, Caughnawaga Golf Club, Kahnawake, contact: Anouk Cree, 450-632-0088 ext 232 or [acre@faq-qnw.org](mailto:acre@faq-qnw.org)

**Waswanipi Golf Benefit** July 7, Belvedere Golf Club, contact: David Happyjack, 819-753-2450 ext 229

### **S.O.C.A.M. Golf Tournament 2011**

July 8, Charbourg Golf Club, Quebec City, contact: Shushan Bacon, 418-843-3873

**Cree Nation of Oujé-Bougoumou** July 14, Chibougamau, contact: 418-745-3911 ext. 225

**Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi Eeyou Golf Classic** July 15, Club de Golf Oiselet, Amos, contact: Bill Katapatuk, Jr., 819-732-9409

**Cree Nation of Mistissini 8th Annual Stanley Longchap Classic** July 23-24, Chibougamau-Chapais Golf Club, contact: Shawn Iserhoff, 418-923-2233 or Robyn, 418-923-3461 ext 327

**Cree Nation of Eastmain** July 29, Belvedere Golf Club, Val-d'Or, contact: Johnny Kontonatuk, 819-977-0211 ext 332

### **Takwagin – Lac Simon First Nation**

Aug 4, Belvedere Golf Club, Val-d'Or, contact Paul-André Cheezo, 819-860-8146 or [paul.andre.cheezo@lacsimon.ca](mailto:paul.andre.cheezo@lacsimon.ca)

### **Grand Council of the Cree E.I. Annual Cree Nation Achievement Awards Benefit Golf Tournament**

Aug 26, Golf Mont-Tremblant, contact: tba

### **Waskaganish First Nation, Albert Diamond Classic**

Sept 1, Belvedere Golf Club, Val-d'Or, contact: Charles Hester, 819-895-8650 ext 3205

# Golf season is coming soon and now's the perfect time to order your promotional material!

**Call Beesum and we'll send you a free quote featuring the best in quality and prices for the items you're interested in.**

**If you find a better priced product elsewhere we will match or beat that price for equal quality.**



We offer printing or embroidery of your slogan, name and company/entity logo on any promotional item. Design services available on demand.



[mgoyette@beesum-communications.com](mailto:mgoyette@beesum-communications.com)

Tel: 514-272-3077





# Earth Studies for Cree youth and beyond

## A unique environmental course unites Cree youth with students from abroad to learn together

By Amy German

While Cree children in the communities have the opportunity on a daily basis to learn from their own environment and their Elders who are there to pass on knowledge, they don't often get to share their culture with youth from other provinces, states or countries.

This is why the International School for Earth Studies (ISES) has been running a special program for Cree youth and young people from the United States to share their individual cultures while learning about the gifts of Mother Earth and how to protect her.

While ISES holds programs year round for students often experiencing a gap year between high school and university, its summer programming is unique in that it is for a younger clientele and is offered in a shorter time frame that is known as the Insight Quest Program (IQP).

The program starts out with bringing Cree students from the north and American students from the south together at ISES's base camp in Ladysmith, Quebec for the first two weeks of study.

"It's all about cultural integration as we take six Cree youth and six students primarily from the US. I have kids coming in from Boston, Chicago, California, Colorado and I might even have one from Ontario. Nine out of 10 times I have them coming in from the States," said Geoffrey D. Cushing, cofounder and director of ISES.

As ISES is nature connection based, the facility cares for over 70 animals that are part of the school's study program. Cushing said they keep 25 sled dogs, seven horses and a private collection of over a dozen birds of prey as well as injured animals from the wild that the students and staff care for on site.

Grooming pups, bottle feeding abandoned raccoons and handling wildlife that is being rehabilitated is all part of the school's animal husbandry program for

the students as they are guided to do so under the careful supervision of the professionals who are there to teach them.

Learning about the environment is a big part of the program and students are given the opportunity to do so through various forms of media and through sharing their own personal stories.

Cushing recalled one time when a student from Massachusetts was bragging about how "green" his state had become when it came to using renew-

"HE BEGAN TO THINK BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF HIS STATE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPACT OF THE ENERGY PRODUCTION."

able energy and adopting environmentally sustainable lifestyles. It was only when a Cree girl asked him where he thought his energy came from and what kind of an impact that had on her community that he began to think beyond the boundaries of his state and acknowledge the impact of the energy production. North America's energy demands play a major role in terms of the environmental teachings of the program.

Cushing explained that this is why the Cree participants are so essential to the program because of the perspectives they can bring to the table.

The Crees are not without their advantages as well, interacting with youth from different places who they would never get the chance to meet otherwise and learning leadership skills while they are at it.

Flat-water canoeing, canoe tripping, game trail hiking and wilderness survival skills are also a large part of the program as is bush learning about the local flora. In learning about their immediate environment, students are taught what indigenous plants are edible, how to grow organic vegetables and how to nurture a medicine-wheel garden.

During the final part of the program, the students are driven for 12 hours directly north to embark on a canoeing trip through EMI and the Rupert Diversion with their final destination being the annual Old Nemaska Days festival.

"The last year we were there they actually gave us the old church that was part of the original community and we had people waiting for us on the beach at 10 at night when we paddled in – it was just wonderful," said Cushing.

Former Cree students have been coming back to participate in the program year after year because they enjoy it so much said Cushing. Nemaska's Steve Visitor, a graduate of one of the Niskamoon engineering programs, liked being at the school that he returns during the course with the Crees to work as an instructor and then serve as a liaison when they are back in their communities.

Another benefit for the Cree students is the price. While the students from the US and other places have to pay about \$2500 for the IQP program, Cree Human Resources and Development covers the cost for Cree students so their families only have to pay \$50 per participant.

"We really do want to create a new world. It's not just about environment, it's about kids and so these kids get to feel a sense of ownership. We are looking for those kinds of kids, who given an opportunity, will make a difference and that is what we are working with," said Cushing.

For more info on ISES and its unique programs, visit:  
[www.earth-studies.ca/ises](http://www.earth-studies.ca/ises)

# Feeding the north

## INAC's new Nutrition North program may offer cheaper, healthier foods, but at what cost?

By Amy German

After decades of shipping food to the north under the Food Mail Program, as of April 1, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada launched Nutrition North Canada, a new food subsidy program to get healthier food to the Canada's most northern peoples.

While the federal government is heralding the program as being better for the people and retailers as it is the latter group that will now have the advantage of organizing the best means of transporting their goods, just like in the rest of the country, not everyone is convinced that this is the best plan available.

As Leo Doyle, the acting director for Nutrition North Canada, explained both programs feature subsidies but the new one offers special subsidies for fresh produce, meats and other perishable items in particular as there is no other means of shipping them other than by plane.

When it comes to other dry goods, canned items and various sundries, such as cosmetics, soaps or even tampons, it is up to the retailer to negotiate the cheapest and often the "greenest" means to transport these items.

Since the 1960s, food had been shipped to remote communities in the Northwest Territories, Nunavik and other far north Aboriginal communities through the Food Mail program, where the transportation was handled by Canada Post and subsidized by the federal government.

Doyle explained that the shipping costs were not actually reflective of the real costs because of the subsidies; the rates were about \$0.80/kg with some additional fees.

"It worked out for perishable food to about \$0.90/kg. For non-perishables it depended, it was about \$1/kg in the northern parts of the program-eligible area and about \$2.15/kg in the Territories. The real cost of shipping that perishable or non-perishable food usually was considerably more although the

difference was less if you were in less remote places like the northern parts of the provinces," said Doyle.

Under Nutrition North, each eligible community is given a subsidy rate that is reflective of the difference between the actual cost to ship the product and what the government was paying.

The idea is not to force retailers to use services like Canada Post to ship via air only but allow them to find cheaper means of getting the goods delivered if they so desire.

"This could mean finding different routes that make more sense. The program model is set up in a way that is reflective of the way things would be if the government wasn't involved at all as it allows retailers and shippers to figure out what the best routes would be to begin with. This is how it works everywhere else in Canada," said Doyle.

Doyle said the change in programs came about for a number of reasons. Canada Post had its own complaints because it was never set up for food freight delivery and the program was putting a strain on its service. Canada Post was asking for an additional \$9 million to be able to continue carrying out the service.

There were also complaints from the retailers and clients that when fresh produce would reach its destination, it would often be in poor shape or spoiled, leaving very little desirability for the consumers to purchase it.

However, the new program was not created as a cost-cutting means for the federal government. Doyle said INAC will now be spending more than it ever has to get nutritious foods to the north. And, an additional \$2.9 million will now go annually to Health Canada to help support nutrition education initiatives to support healthy food choices to educate northerners about what they should be eating.

"One of the challenges that we have had in the change from Food Mail to NN

was that we were trying to remove the financial incentive for people to fly in products like flour that could be readily brought in by marine transportation service which is less energy intense and less costly way of moving products," said Doyle.

When it comes to transportation, Doyle said the government is encouraging retailers to make alternative arrangements through whatever means works best for them, such as sea freight, truck delivery via ice roads or other means.

While there are still subsidies on all of the products being brought into the north, it is only the perishable items that have a high subsidy rate, anything else from canned goods to flour has a much lower subsidy rate and is therefore considerably more expensive if the retailer opts to fly it in.

"The grocers have told us that they can bring in dozens and dozens of semi-tractor-trailers worth of food and product at considerably less expensive prices than flying it in," said Doyle.

Under the new program, retailers are also expected to pass these savings on the clients and the hope is that this will encourage shoppers to buy the more nutritious foods as they are now being offered it at a reduced rate.

To ensure that the savings are actually being passed on to customers, Doyle said the retailers and food suppliers have a legal agreement with INAC that didn't exist under the old program as there was no assurance under Food Mail. The 29 food suppliers that have currently signed to Nutrition North have given the government the right to audit them to collect data on their pricing practices and volumes that they are shipping. The government has also already sent auditors to some of these suppliers to see if this is actually happening.

At the same time, the government recognizes that perhaps not enough communication happened prior to the program switchover as many communi-



ties have had difficulty with the new subsidies, making new arrangements for shipping and learning how to work with the new required paperwork.

For this reason Doyle said the government has made allowances in certain circumstances so that the program will not come into effect until October 2012.

Despite this, some communities are flat out refusing to participate in the program. According to the CBC, Yellowknife's Co-Op and Extra Foods chain have opted out of Nutrition North because they had seen "very small insignificant reductions" in the costs of produce items. At the same time, the store chain complained that the program involved too much paperwork as it requires each product to be weighed and itemized for every order.

The North West Company, who are one of the 29 food retailer chains in the north that have signed on to Nutrition North, has been quick to announce to the public what kind of a difference the new program has made when it comes to consumers.

In a recent press release they announced that the price of iceberg lettuce had gone down 26% from \$7.09 to \$5.25 per head and a 3lb bag of Red Delicious apples will now cost \$11.29, down from \$11.89, showing a 5% price change.

As for those retailers who are not satisfied with the new program, Doyle said that after the federal election the government will focus on communicating with northern citizens about the value of the program and will also work with retailers to show them the program's value.

In Inukjuak (formerly Port Harrison), Johnny Kasudluak, a Cordon Bleu-educated chef who ran for the Green Party in the last federal election, said so far the program is making things very difficult for the 1400 residents of his coastal community.

In the space of a week he saw the price of a 2.5kg bag of flour rise from \$7 to a whopping \$11. This jump has Kasudluak concerned as he worries that his people won't be able to afford to make bannock, a daily staple.

At that, with high unemployment rates and rampant poverty, Kasudluak

said you can hear families calling into the local radio station on a daily basis to beg for food from other community members when they have run out.

"A lot of the foods that they are used to eating have increased because they are not considered nutritious by the program but this has been the main diet of the population for a long time. Cans increased a bit and that includes canned vegetables," said Kasudluak.

This is how his people have adapted however he explained, the Inuit community has become accustomed to eating canned fruits and vegetables but the preference is for foods like eggs, bacon and toast but the price of bacon has shot up significantly.

At the same time, Kasudluak has no idea as to how the Nutrition North program is going to help his people as the only means of accessing the community is by plane and he said it's the same thing for many communities in Nunavik.

"Ice roads? What planet do they live on? There are only a few communities in the Territories and in the provinces that use ice roads. The majority of places in the north don't use ice roads.

"Planes are the only way. In the summer, there is the option of sea transportation. But for a few years now I have been talking to the two store managers in my community and they have both said that air freight is basically no different than sea freight when you take into account the high cost of fuel," said Kasudluak.

With prices on the rise for the staples the communities have adapted to, Kasudluak acknowledged that these price increases in dry and canned goods would also mean that it would become even more costly for families to go hunting as they can only subsist off of what they have brought until a kill is made.



"THERE WERE ALSO COMPLAINTS FROM THE RETAILERS AND CLIENTS THAT WHEN FRESH PRODUCE WOULD REACH ITS DESTINATION, IT WOULD OFTEN BE IN POOR SHAPE OR SPOILED."

He said this is for the luckier members of the community as many of his people cannot get out to camps because they can't even afford a skidoo or fuel for it.

Though he agrees that having healthier food available at lower prices is good, Kasudluak is uncertain if it will really take off amongst his people as they are encountering many new items they have never seen before, like squash and radishes, which may be hard to integrate into the Inuit diet. He said the diet in his community is very basic and that people have adapted to eating a certain way.

"From the Food Mail program to Nutrition North we have seen various changes, especially when the new product labels were being put out. Sometimes the NN labels will actually show the difference between the old and new price, but the previous price doesn't always match what we were actually paying before the NN program. There really is a discrepancy and some of the prices are much higher," said Kasudluak.

In reality, only time will tell how effective the new program is and how well the people of the north can adapt to it. For more info: [www.nutritionnorth-canada.ca/index-eng.asp](http://www.nutritionnorth-canada.ca/index-eng.asp)



# 2.7 million households are eligible.

Are you?

## The new solidarity tax credit

As of July, the solidarity tax credit will replace the QST credit, the property tax refund and the credit for individuals living in northern villages.

More generous, this new tax credit will be paid monthly to 2.7 million eligible households.

**Sign up for direct deposit today to receive it every month.**

**For more information visit [revenuquebec.ca](http://revenuquebec.ca)**

**If you don't have a bank account, contact us:**

Quebec City region	418 659-6299
Montreal region	514 864-6299
Elsewhere	1 800 267-6299 (toll-free)

**Revenu**  
**Québec** 





## UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

### Shape up or ship out

by Xavier Kataquapit

Everywhere I travel these days, I feel the effects of global warming. Weather patterns are changing, ice caps are melting, glaciers are receding and it is all becoming very obvious. I first started hearing about a change in climate from some of the Elders from up the James Bay coast about 20 years ago. More recently, I have learned through news from the worldwide scientific community that a phenomenon such as global warming is upon us. Although there is a debate happening with opposition to this concept being fuelled by big corporations, most reasonable people have accepted that global warming is the result of human-caused pollution.

There are so many ramifications of global warming. Changes in weather and temperatures, even though they don't seem critical, can have great effect on wildlife. This means that my people, the Cree and the Aboriginal people of northern Canada, will be facing changes in our traditions and culture as it relates to our relationship to the land and the animals. Already, we see the polar-bear populations being affected as well as changes in the annual goose migration. The shorter winter freeze is also affecting my people's ability to travel in the north. In the colder months we make great use of the frozen landscape to move about and a winter road connects communities up the James Bay coast. With the change in climate the winter road is going in later and thawing sooner every year.

Many in the corporate world and some in government are doing their best to discredit the scientists, writers and educators who are trying to alert us to this crisis of global warming. That sounds like a nasty thing to do but it is not the first time this form of denial has been encouraged. The cigarette lobby tried to convince the public for many years that there was little or no danger in smoking. They paid big money to hire lob-

bying firms to intimidate governments and discredit medical experts and scientists.

You would think that at this point in our civilization that we would be thinking in the long term and in the best interest of future generations, however we are still putting profit before anything else. As long as the average person does not educate themselves about global warming and the effect it will have on future generations then we will simply continue living in denial.

My people up the James Bay coast and the Aboriginal people of the coastal regions of the far north should be getting ready for some very big changes. Right now many of these communities right across Canada's far north are isolated and remote. You can only get to them mainly by aircraft. With global warming hotly unfolding, we are getting reports that the sea ice of the famous Northwest Passage is receding more and more each year. It won't be happening tomorrow but in the foreseeable future we will see for the first time ever major ship traffic on the Northwest Passage. This will become a very popular route and will have great effect on remote Aboriginal far north coastal communities. Of course, some of this will be beneficial, as goods and services will flow more easily to these communities. However, it will also provide easier access for corporations wanting to develop the harvesting of natural resources in these areas. The way of life for many remote Aboriginal communities will change rapidly.

It is easy to feel helpless with such enormous issues like global warming but we can have a voice. One thing we can do is to make sure that the environment and conservation once again becomes a top priority for the public. Our future depends on it.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy 8th birthday wishes go out to our beautiful twin girls Alyssa & Leah, who will be celebrating their day on April 30th, 2011. May all your dreams and wishes come true girls! We love you so much! From Mom, Dad and Dray

## WEDDINGS

We are delighted to announce that Cynthia & John Mameanskum decided to have their wedding on Tues. April 5th, 2011 at Cynthia's parents' home, Jean and Philip Einish. The ceremony continued at St-Johns Anglican Church in Kawawachikamach. It was also the 56th wedding anniversary of John's parents, Kitty and Matthew Mameanskum and of Cynthia's aunt (Ann) & Sandy Uniam. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this day extra special for the newlyweds and to the 2 special couples who have been together for 56 yrs. Congrats to Cynthia and John (17 years together)! From: Edna and Louise (loucool) Mameanskum.

## PERSONAL MESSAGES

How fast the time goes...we used to do stupid things together...like I always say. lol. I will always remember all the fun times we had. And now....you're getting married this summer. Happiness to you and your family :) and don't forget to kiss bb girl 4 me. A friend is here whenever u need to talk :)...Congratulations to Yolanda and Tino who will get married around August. lol. Not really sure. With Luv from, ur cuz Daisy Brien and family :)

## PERSONAL MESSAGES

I just wanted to share my love to my son Chase Immanuel

Matthew Wapachee-Herodier. I love you so much and always will. Saying hi to my family and friends, too. From, Christopher Herodier, Jr.

## Happy Mother's Day

### "My Friend"

Sometimes I call you just to say "Hi"

Other times I call you just to share

Some silly or wonderfully exciting thing

That just happened...

Sometimes I call you because I'm feeling desperate and blue  
I know I can always count on you

To pull some kind of dazzling colour

Right out of my situation  
And flash it all up in my face  
'Til you make me smile...

Other times I can call you  
Because I've got a feeling that you need my ear  
To be the kind that can bend...

But mostly I'm glad that no matter

When I call you,  
I know I can always call you  
"my friend"

*I love you!*

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Missing Children's

**Network:** They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared.

514-843-4333.

### Kid's Help Phone Line:

1-800-668-6868

(www.kidshelpphone.ca)

### Youth helpline:

1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

### Parent helpline:

1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)

### Drugs: help and reference:

1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aiderreference.qc.ca)

### Gambling: help and reference:

1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)

### S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:

1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

### Health and Sexuality

### resources center:

1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm)  
(www.criss.org)

### Gay Helpline:

1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

### The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal:

1-866-403-4688. (www.nwsm.info)

### Suicide Action Québec:

1-866-277-3553

### Residential School Survivors:

A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: <http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources.html>

## COMPUTER TRAINING CENTER

✓ Introduction : Windows, Word & Excel  
539 \$ +TX/ 18 hours over 3 days  
By request

✓ Excel-Functions & Formulas  
359 \$ +TX/ 12 hours over 2 days  
May 24 and 25, 2011

Course book included



We invite you to phone us with any questions  
819-824-8884

✓ Excel-Analysis Tool  
359 \$ +TX/ 12 hours over 2 days  
May 26 and 27, 2011

✓ MS-Project  
998 \$ +TX/ 24 hours over 4 days  
June 6, 7, 8 and 9, 2011

✓ MS-Access  
998 \$ +TX/ 24 hours over 4 days  
May 30 and 31, June 1 and 2, 2011

**SINCE 1999**  
**Centraccès Formation**

888, 3rd Avenue, Val-d'Or  
[www.centracces.qc.ca](http://www.centracces.qc.ca)

## CLASSIFIEDS ARE FREE FOR EVERYONE

PERSONALS, BIRTHS, ANNIVERSARIES, MESSAGES, ETC.

### How to get your info to us :

By Fax : 514-278-9914

By email:

[Beesum@beesum-communications.com](mailto:Beesum@beesum-communications.com)

On the web go to:

[www.nationnews.ca](http://www.nationnews.ca)

and click on "Place a classified"

Snail Mail:

4529 Clark Suite 403, Montréal, Qc, H2T 2T3

If you wish to add a picture, it is possible for \$10.00.

Send money order

Contact us at 514-272-3077 for more details.

All Classified will be reviewed;  
any improper content may be withheld.





After the hunt, make sure you store your firearms safely – unloaded and under lock and key. This will help keep you and your family safe from firearms injury all-year-round.

[facebook.com/creehealth](https://facebook.com/creehealth)



Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James  
 Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay







***Your Northern Airline of choice!***



**Air Creebec**

For reservations, charters or information, call toll-free: 1-800-567-6567  
Or visit our website at: [www.aircreebec.ca](http://www.aircreebec.ca)